

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

These claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently amended) A roller, particularly for applying varnishes onto sheet metal plates, comprising

- a hollow roller core[[ (10)]],
- pins[[ (16,18)]] for receiving the roller in a printing machine,
- coupling elements[[ (20,22)]] for connecting the pins[[ (16,18)]] with the roller core[[ (10)]] so that a roller interior[[ (44)]] is formed,

characterized in that

the coupling elements[[ (20,22)]] are arranged so as to be inwardly offset with respect to the roller front faces[[ (26)]],

air exit openings[[ (32)]] are provided in a border region[[ (28)]] of the roller core[[ (10)]] outside the coupling elements[[ (20,22)]], and

a channel forming element[[ (34)]] for forming a junction channel[[ (36)]] between the air exit openings[[ (32)]] and the roller interior[[ (44)]] is provided.

2. (Currently amended) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that the channel forming element[[ (34)]] is inserted into the roller core[[ (10)]].
3. (Currently amended) The roller of claim 1[[ or 2]], characterized in that the channel forming element[[ (34)]] has a L-shaped cross section so that the junction channel[[ (36)]] is formed through the channel forming element[[ (34)]] and an inner wall[[ (24)]] of the roller core[[ (10)]].
4. (Currently amended) The roller of ~~one of claims~~ claim 1[[ - 3]], characterized in that the channel forming element[[ (34)]] is annular.

5. (Currently amended) The roller of ~~one of claims~~claim 1[[ - 4]], characterized in that one of the coupling elements[[ (20,22)]] comprises at least one opening[[ (42)]] communicating with the junction channel[[ (36)]] and the roller interior[[ (44)]].
6. (Currently amended) The roller of ~~one of claims~~claim 1[[ - 5]], characterized in that one of the coupling elements[[ (20,22)]] comprises a connection element[[ (46)]] for the connection with a source of compressed air.
7. (Currently amended) The roller of ~~one of claims~~claim 1[[ - 6]], comprising a sleeve[[ (12)]] drawn up onto the roller core (air mandrel)[[ (10)]].
8. (Currently amended) A method for drawing a sleeve[[ (12)]] onto a roller core[[ (10)]] of a roller according to ~~one of claims~~claim 1[[ - 7]], wherein  
an air film is formed between the sleeve[[ (12)]] and an outside of the roller core[[ (10)]], and  
the sleeve[[ (12)]] is slid or drawn onto the roller core[[ (10)]] at the side of the channel forming element[[ (34)]].
9. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a sleeve (12) for being drawn~~A method of drawing a sleeve onto a roller core[[ (10)]] comprising the step of providing a roller according to ~~one of claims~~claim 1[[ - 7]].